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Ruth M. Saskowski

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Lee A. BULLA, Jr. and Mehmet CANDAS

Serial No.: 09/696,929

3cmar 140.. 07/070,727

Filing Date: 25 October 2000

For: MICROBE, MICROBIAL EXOPOLY-SACCHARIDE AND USES THEREOF Examiner: Francisco Chandler Prats

Group Art Unit: 1651

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office action herein mailed 10 September 2002, time for response to which was set to expire 10 December 2002. A petition for an extension of time of two (2) months until 10 February 2003 is attached hereto, along with the required fee.

Claims 47-58, all pending claims, were rejected. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection, and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Enclosed is the following Exhibit A: Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.